

Message Text

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14-10

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-09 ABF-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /116 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9656

UNCLAS USUN 966

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, SOPN, UN

SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION: MEETINGS OF CONSULTATIVE

PANEL ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AT UN HEADQUARTERS,

MARCH 20-21, 1975

REF: STATE 62842

1. SUMMARY: UN CONSULTATIVE PANEL ON PUBLIC INFORMATION (CPPI) MET MARCH 20 AND 21 IN NEW YORK. SYG WALDHEIM EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF 7TH SPECIAL SESSION AND UN IMAGE, WHILE ASYG AKATANI AND OPI STAFF LAID GROUNDWORK FOR PROPOSED OPI BUDGET INCREASES. US REP, DRAWING ON REFTEL, DEFLATED SOME OF OPI CLAIMS, END SUMMARY

2. SYG WALDHEIM, OPENING CPPI SESSION MAR 20, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NEWS MEDIA HAVE NOT BEEN TOO FAVORABLE TO UN. HE SAID UN MUST REACH MASS MEDIA AND NGOS, SO THEY CAN REFLECT REALITIES OF WORLD SITUATION, AND URGED STRESSING POSITIVE ASPECTS OF UN. WALDHEIM SAID IMAGE OF UN DEPENDS MORE ON OUTCOME OF 7TH SPECIAL SESSION THAN ON 30TH GA.

3. SYG SAID OPI NEEDS LARGER BUDGET, BUT ADMITTED NEW COSTS COULD BE PARTIALLY OFFSET BY COMBINING OPI

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AND UNDP RESOURCES. US REP (SHELDON) DREW ON REFTEL,

SAYING US DOES NOT FAVOR ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES, WHICH
WOULD BE CONSIDERED DURING PROGRAM BUDGET REVIEW PROCESS.

4. SHELDON OBJECTED TO PHRASE "MOBILIZATION OF PUBLIC OPINION," SAYING IT WAS AKIN TO PROPAGANDA (ASYG AKATANI SAID "MOBILIZATION" HAD BEEN INHERITED FROM ECOSOC AND COMITE 2). AKATANI DEFENDED OPI'S OBJECTIVITY, SAYING IT COULD NOT PROPAGANDIZE BECAUSE OF CLOSE SCRUTINY OF MEMBER GOVTs; HE SAID OPI OBJECTIVITY WAS ALSO SAFEGUARDED BY LONG-STANDING POLICY OF DESIGNATING NON-NATIONAL INFO CENTRE DIRECTORS. US REP INQUIRED ABOUT D-1 STATUS OF DIRECTORS OF SEVEN INFO CENTRES, PARTICULARLY NEW DELHI AND SYDNEY.

5. ALLUDING TO SYG'S REMARKS, US REP CAUTIONED OPI AGAINST LOOKING FOR WHAT ARE POSITIVE ANGLES TO REPORT; SAID FACTS, GOOD OR BAD, WILL HAVE TO SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. US REP DEFENDED FREE PRESS IN US, NOTING OPPOSING VIEWS OF UN DEBATES WERE RATHER FULLY QUOTED LAST FALL; SAID WE MUST NOT ASK OPI TO PERFORM MIRACLES THAT UN ITSELF CANNOT PERFORM.

6. SOV REP ASKED OPI TO ECONOMIZE BEFORE IT EXPANDED. BRITISH REP INSISTED OPI AVOID PROPAGANDA, REMAIN OBJECTIVE, AND NOT SEEK TO REPLACE INFO MEDIA. TUNISIAN AND JORDANIAN REPS URGED GREATER EFFORTS BY OPI IN INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE UN IMAGE.

7. GALENOVICH (OPI EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIV DIR) SAID OPI INTENDS TO TRANSLATE MORE FREQUENTLY INTO FRENCH, ARABIC AND SPANISH, FOR WHICH THEY WOULD NEED ADDITIONAL HELP AND POSTS. ALSO, SAID POLICY AND PROGRAM SECTION MUST BE STRENGTHENED TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE REQUIRED BY INFO CENTRES. CONCLUDED BY SAYING OPI WOULD STRIVE FOR BETTER REPRESENTATION IN THE FIELD.

8. GIBSON PARKER (DIR, CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFO - CESI) SAID JUNIC IS OPERATING SATISFACTORILY AND DESCRIBED A NEW COMBINED PROGRAM JOINTLY FINANCED WITH CERTAIN AGENCIES (IWY, HABITAT, 7TH SPEC SESSION). SAID UNCLASSIFIED

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ACC IS TRYING TO SPEED UP DISTRIBUTION OF OPI MATERIALS.

9. USUN WILL FORWARD SUMMARY TO MTGS WHEN RELEASED BY UN.
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Message Attributes

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